

SANTA FE WEEKLY GAZETTE.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS: NEUTRAL IN NOTHING.

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TERMS OF THE GAZETTE.

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Latest News from Utah—Arrival of Capt. Marcy from Fort Bridger.

We have been informed by Mr. H. Bailey, of the arrival of Capt. Marcy, of Col. Johnson's command, at Fort Cantonment Burgwin, from Fort Bridger. Mr. Bailey traveled with Capt. M. from Fort Massachusetts to Fort Cantonment. Capt. Marcy left Fort Bridger on the 27th of December, and reached Fort Massachusetts on the 19th inst. He started with 66 mules, 15 or 20 horses, and 70 men, all told—including guides, &c. Tim Goodell and Jim Baker, two old and experienced mountaineers, acted as guides. They crossed directly from Fort Bridger to the Sawatch Pass, and thence to Fort Massachusetts. From the Pass, Capt. Marcy dispatched a message to Capt. Bowman, at Fort Massachusetts, to the effect that they were out of provisions, and had been living on mule meat for a number of days. Capt. Bowman met them at the foot of the Sawatch with three wagon loads. The command of Capt. Marcy reached Massachusetts, on the 20th with 22 of the 66 mules, and none of the horses—the most of the latter having been killed for food. They travelled for 80 miles in snow four feet deep, without a murmur. The guides and soldiers speak in the highest terms of commendation of the kindness and solicitude manifested by Capt. Marcy for the comfort of his men, and shared with them in all their hardships and trials. Not a man was lost. This daring and adventurous undertaking of Capt. Marcy cannot fail to add fresh laurels to his already national reputation as a brave, skillful and determined officer.

We receive intelligence through this source that Col. Johnson had taken up winter quarters at Fort Bridger. The Mormons had abandoned the Fort, after an ineffectual effort to burn it down. The troops were all in fine spirits; and the mules, cattle, &c., had excellent pasture. The only article that Colonel Johnson really needed, was Salt. Brigham Young had sent out some to the Fort, but the Col sent it back. Brigham must begin to think that salt will not save him. Goodell thinks that there will be very little fighting, if any. Indeed every action of the Mormons, except Brigham's proclamation, goes to show that they are evading a contest. Had they determined to make war, they never would have abandoned Fort Bridger, their most important point to commence a resistance. Goodell is confident the Mormons cannot raise more than 6,000 fighting men.

Capt. Marcy has been expected in this city for several days past; and will doubtless be here to-day or to-morrow.

The new Court Law, goes into immediate effect. It will be composed of the Prefect in each county, and two associates to be appointed by the Governor. It will have jurisdiction in civil cases over \$1,000, and in criminal cases not involving capital punishment.—This is an important change in our jurisprudence, the merits of which we do not propose here to discuss. It will be the duty of the Governor to select two competent Judges, who will faithfully and fearlessly discharge the responsible duties which will devolve upon them. As one of them, no more proper person could be appointed than Judge Houghton. He is a gentleman of experience and competency, and the only difficulty will be in getting him to accept the position. We trust his sense of duty to community will prompt him to yield to the popular wish in this instance, and accept the place, if tendered him.

Mr. Johnson, of the firm of Beck & Johnson, will leave with the mail of the first proximo, for the States, to purchase their annual supplies. It was the design of the senior partner, Mr. Beck, to have left on the 15th instant, but a tedious attack of sickness, the effects of which still slightly linger with him, prevented. He will not go to the States this year.

Judge J. S. Watts, who returned from the Rio Abajo on Wednesday last, will likewise leave for the States in the same mail.

Col. W. R. Harley, Indian Agent, and R. C. Harley, his son, leave for the States in this mail. There are two other passengers we believe, whose names we have not learned.

Mr. Bailey, now superintending the building of the new Fort at Massachusetts, arrived in Santa Fe, Saturday last, and leaves on his return, Monday.

Judge S. M. Baird, has been stopping in this city for several days, during the present week.

The Hon. John Letcher, of Virginia, and M. A. Otero, of New Mexico, will please accept our thanks for various valuable public documents.

Henry M. Rice and Gen. James Shields will be the United States Senators from the new State of Minnesota. General Shields is a native of Ireland, and has represented the State of Illinois in the United States Senate.

Appropriations for New Mexico.

The expose of the financial condition of our country, contained in the annual communication of the Secretary of the Treasury, suggests the idea, in the President's message, of the necessity for a national loan. The President likewise says, in view of the figures of the Treasurer's Report: "I have, therefore, determined that, whilst no useful government works already in progress shall be suspended, new works, not already commenced, will be postponed if this can be done without injury to the country. Those necessary to its defence shall proceed as though there had been no crisis in our monetary affairs."

Should Congress view the condition and wants of the country in the same light in which the President does, we need have no fears but our Territory will receive such appropriations as will be necessary, but which were refused by the last Congress, to complete her unfinished public buildings. This we confidently expect. It would be idle, however, in the face of the hungry state of our national Exchequer, to indulge the hope that our delegate in Congress, will be able to procure any considerable appropriations for roads, &c. not yet commenced. And we deem it proper, at this early day, to direct the attention of our people to the fact, and prepare the public mind for the consequences. When the country itself is groaning under heavy pecuniary distress, and the treasury of the United States, which a few years ago had a surplus of \$30,000,000, is now thinking of a loan to supply its exhausted vaults, it cannot be expected that the wishes of the people of our Territory will be fully gratified in their requests for appropriations to carry out their plans and improvements.

Whatever our delegate will have it in his power to do, through his own and the influence of friends, our readers may rest assured will be accomplished.

Land Commissioners, &c.

The Secretary of the Interior, in his annual report to the President of the U. S., very wisely recommends the establishment of a land office and a board of commissioners for the adjudication of Spanish and Mexican land claims in this Territory. The sooner this is done, the better. Our lands are now being rapidly surveyed. There are already three deputy surveyors in the field, viz: Col. J. W. Garretson, Col. Clemens, and Mr. Kelley, from whom we have the most favorable reports as to their progress. In the spring we understand our friends A. P. Wilbur and Wm. Drew will take a contract, and from their known energy and capacity, we are well assured, will put it through. Hence the recommendation of the Secretary is timely, and should be promptly acted upon. The land titles in this Territory are of a complicated and intricate nature. It will require labor and learning to properly adjust them; and the more speedily the work is commenced, the less will be the difficulties to encounter.

We call the special attention of our delegate, Hon. M. A. Otero, to this suggestion of the Secretary, and urge upon him activity in its behalf.

The Surveyor General.

It will be gratifying to the friends of General William Pelham, Surveyor General of New Mexico, to hear that the charges preferred against him at Washington City, by a few political enemies, have been entirely refuted, and his vindication made triumphant. In noticing these charges some time since, we predicted that such would be the result. The facts were so well known here, that no one entertained a doubt as to the motives which first prompted the charges and the utter hopelessness of their being sustained. The prompt, clear and satisfactory decision of the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, in the premises, evidences that he himself is equally convinced of the injustice attempted to be done General Pelham, and of the groundless nature of the charges.

From private sources, we learn that there is no doubt but General Pelham will be reappointed next spring to the position he now holds. A failure to do so would be greatly harmful to the interests of the government, and the people of this Territory; and regretted by all who have the true interests of New Mexico at heart.

The two U. S. Senators who are just now attracting the attention of the entire Union, on account of their recent intellectual conflict on Kansas affairs, are Judge S. A. Douglas of Illinois, and Hon. James S. Green, of Missouri. The one, Douglas, was a carpenter's apprentice in New England, and the other, Green, a millwright, from Fauquier county, Virginia. Mr. Green is several years the junior of Judge Douglas, but is a much prettier and more captivating speaker.

Captain Langdon Easton.

The Legislature has passed a memorial petitioning the President of the United States to promote Captain Langdon Easton, now in the Quartermaster's Department of New Mexico, to a Colonelcy in one of the new regiments, which the President and Secretary of War have recommended, and which, it is believed, will be authorized by Congress.

Captain Easton is an efficient officer every way worthy the favorable consideration of the President, and an elegant gentleman, who enjoys the unbounded esteem and confidence of the citizens of this Territory. His promotion would be popular with all classes; and would doubtless prove serviceable to the government.

While this is true of Captain Easton, there are likewise other officers of our acquaintance whose claims to elevation to a similar position are equally meritorious. No officers stand higher in the esteem of citizens and soldiers than Majors W. A. Nichols and J. T. Sprague, and their favorable notice by the President would be received with gratification by their numerous friends here and elsewhere.

Geological Survey.

The Secretary of the Interior recommends in his annual report, the propriety of Congress providing for a geological survey of the Territory of New Mexico. Such a survey would do more to advance the interests of New Mexico, and develop her almost fabulous mineral wealth, than any thing else. We have gold, silver, copper, lead and iron ores, in the greatest abundance. Coal is found in some places, of excellent quality, and salt is gathered up in wagon loads, from the vast deposits, in this Territory. There never has been an effort, worthy the name, to develop the rich resources which nature has given us; and a geological survey, we are sure, would unfold wealth, which would compare in extent and prolificness with the riches of California.

The placer mines already begin to give assurance, we learn, of a profitable yield, although the new machinery has not as yet had a fair test. We trust it will amply repay the enterprise of the company.

Pueblo Titles.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs recommends the immediate survey of the Pueblo grants in this Territory. To effect this, there will have to be an additional appropriation of about \$4,000, to the \$3,500 heretofore appropriated. The Surveyor General has already recommended to Congress the confirmation of seventeen of the twenty-one titles immediately within this agency. The evidence of the validity of the other four is equally as strong, but has not been taken as yet. We trust Congress will at once act upon the recommendation of the Surveyor General, so that the surveys may be commenced this coming spring. There are constantly difficulties arising from the undefined limits of the Pueblo grants, between their owners and the Mexicans, which lead to no little embarrassment to the Indian Agent, and is frequently a source of unredressed grievance and wrong to the Indians.

Indian Regulations.

The recommendation of the Interior Department, contemplating a revision and codification of the regulations of the Indian Bureau, if executed, cannot fail of most salutary results, in removing causes of inevitable conflict, which now are of daily occurrence. In this Territory, there is a class of Indians (the Pueblos) to which the intercourse act of 1834 has no application, inasmuch as the Territorial Legislature has enacted laws directly in conflict with it, and by which in a great measure those Indians have to be governed. The Secretary of the Interior has classified, and very properly, the Indians of our country, into three divisions—the wild savage, the improved savage, and the semi-civilized. The regulations of the department are intended and do apply (where their application is of any force) to all alike, when their condition, wants and habits are entirely dissimilar. The laws, therefore, should be so altered as to have likewise three different classifications, suited in provisions for the three different classes.

The Indians of New Mexico are included in the second class. An exception should be made of the Pueblos. They are equal in intelligence, sobriety, industry, civilization and wealth, to almost any other tribe in the country, and are particularly jealous of their christian character, being catholics by profession.

We understand that a fight occurred between the surveying party of deputy Keiley, and some Mexicans, below Albuquerque, on the 18th instant, in which it is believed two Mexicans were killed. The case was to have been heard, on application for a *habeas corpus*, on Monday last, before Judge Benedict. We have not learned the result, but presume it was granted.

Trip to the Rio Abajo.

The acting Editor of the Gazette last week, made a promise that we would this week give an account "in print," of our trip to the Rio Abajo. Had it been a mere pleasure excursion, to enliven the spirits and strengthen the muscles in the enjoyment of the society and hospitality of the excellent people of that beautiful region of country, it might be expected that we would attempt, in graphic terms, to fulfill the implied obligation imposed upon us by our *pro tem*. But it was not. Official business called us off; and in obedience to that demand we left here, on Saturday noon, in company with our excellent interpreter John Ward, Esq. Fortune was propitious in the very outset. Drawn by a pair of excellent mules, which the generous kindness of a friend furnished us, we speedily hastened over the southern road to the residence of Hon. Mr. Gonzales, Senator from Santa Fe county, whose hospitality it was our fortune to enjoy the first night. The home of Mr. Gonzales, is situated on a rich bottom in the Santa Fe Valley. Its outward appearance indicates plenty and comfort within, and its inward comforts, tell of the liberal gentleman who owns it. The next day we reached Algodones, where we found comfortable quarters, at the Hotel of our friend Gleason, and on Monday morning crossed the Rio Grande and proceeded to the first place of business, the Pueblo of San Felipe. A council of three or four hours, with 71 of the principal Indians of the village, enabled us to satisfactorily settle the matter of difference. After this, we followed down the Rio Grande valley, until night was about to overtake us, when we hauled up to the domicile of our excellent friend, Francisco Perea, Esq., at Bernalillo. We spent a pleasant evening in the enjoyment of the company and hospitality of Mr. P., and started off in the morning to reach Isleta, that day, about fifteen miles below Albuquerque. Prudence suggesting a change of mules at Albuquerque, we made inquiry, but could find none that could be hired. There is nothing like having friends at convenient distances. We remembered that Judge Benedict resided in that growing place, so we determined to appeal to his patriotism for assistance in this time of need. He promptly informed us that "Uncle Sam" could have his span, on this particular occasion, and of course we gratefully accepted his kind offer, without alluding to another Sam, who might have been interested. We then crossed the Rio Grande again, broke our buggy, mended it, and went curling behind two as fine mules as are found in this portion of the "moral vineyard." Night overtaking us before we reached Isleta, we stopped at Gen. Gutierrez, where we met a cordial welcome from the accommodating and intelligent gentleman himself, and his excellent lady and daughter. We passed the evening pleasantly, doing justice to the sumptuous repast spread before us at night and morning. In the morning we drove into Isleta early, and rather unexpectedly, as they had looked for us until a late hour the night before. The men, women and children all manifested the utmost gladness at our arrival, and made our brief stay exceedingly pleasant. We held a long and interesting council with about one hundred of the men, not one of whom we noticed, did not look cleanly and neat.

The Pueblo of Isleta contains a population of about 750 souls. It is situated on the Rio Grande on an elevated spot, and is the wealthiest, one of the most moral and industrious Pueblos in the Territory. Besides their pueblo grants, they own large tracts of the finest lands in the Rio Grande Valley, which they or their forefathers purchased. They have many sheep, cattle, mules &c., and cultivate the grape and manufacture the wine to a considerable extent. We stopped at Ambrosio Abeyta's, an Indian, who is worth at least \$30,000. He placed before us some wine of his own make, which is far superior to any we ever tasted in the United States. Ambrosio is a very polite old gentleman; is generous to his guests, and understands the courtesies of life as well as any one. We partook of an excellent dinner here, which was cooked equal to any we have ever tasted by a beautiful Indian girl (his daughter) about sixteen years of age. He has four or five sons, all of whom can read and write. There are nine or ten in this pueblo who can read and write Spanish—all of them speak it. Many of them are anxious to have a school, and the government is greatly indebted to priest Damasio Taladrid, who is officiating in that part of the Territory, for his useful services and wholesome advice to them.

We reluctantly left this interesting pueblo in the afternoon, and reached Albuquerque on our return, about dark, stopping on the way an hour with our excellent and intelligent friend, Padre Taladrid, whose kindness we shall ever remember. Albuquerque is improving as we understand, never having

been there before. We noticed several new stores, and the completion of a beautiful billiard room and saloon at the Hotel of Mr. Bransford. We spent a very pleasant and jolly evening here, for the agreeableness of which we are indebted much to the jovial qualities of Col. Bonneville and Judge Kirby Benedict, of the second judicial district.

Our visit to the Rio Abajo was exceedingly pleasant. In addition to being permitted to meet in council two of the largest and most interesting pueblos in this agency, and passing through another, Sandilla, we had the pleasure of seeing the valley of the Rio Grande, and meeting at their homes, many of its intelligent wealthy and liberal inhabitants.

As you rise the last ridge that obscures the valley on the approach from Santa Fe, the scenery is enchanting. The beautiful expanse of fertile soil which greets the eye, and through which, now lazily, now madly, meanders the waters of Rio Grande, is dotted over with the cattle of a thousand hills. The gradually ascending mounds on the opposite bank, climb higher and higher, until they seem a wall to the heavens, to pen in a mighty sea of water, which at one time must have swept this valley. Then, in such association, to witness one of those beautiful sunsets, so peculiar to this country, is a delight worthy of note. The sky at its western verge, seems a lake of fire, and the lowering clouds so many burning curtains, jealous of the scene, from which shoot up lurid flames, until upon the vault of midheavens is reflected in brilliant colors, the grandeur and splendor of the retiring sun. Now floats out from the more distant clouds a golden island, and gracefully sinking into the sheet of flame below, sails off as if a burning ship. Then, hastily plunges the fragmentary clouds into the ocean of fire, miniaturizing so many beings struggling between two deaths, until the whole scene is gradually succeeded by a soft golden tinged horizon, throwing gently a beautiful curtain over the place where reposes the God of Day.

Fort Union Reading Room.

A letter from Fort Union informs us that the Rev. Mr. Stoddard has organized a Reading Club at Fort Union, exclusively for the benefit of enlisted men, as no others are received as members. The letter says, "our worthy Colonel (we presume Colonel Loring) has given us every aid in his power."

The subscriptions already amount to \$250, and in a short time we will be possessed of the most complete reading Room in the far west, supplied with the principal American Magazines and papers, besides French, English and German papers and periodicals.

We are much pleased to learn that a Reading Room has been inaugurated at Fort Union under auspices so favorable, and trust it will prosper and be useful. This will make the second Reading Room in New Mexico.

A private letter received in this city from a gentleman now in Washington city, and who has every opportunity of judging correctly of what he writes, says: "Otero and Judge Brocchus, are doing everything within the scope of their power for the advancement and substantial interests of New Mexico. They are both noble, generous men, and richly deserve the esteem and gratitude of the people of your Territory." While this is quite complimentary to our delegate and Judge Brocchus, it is nothing more than we expected to hear of them. We trust, New Mexico has a bright and prosperous future before her, and that much will be accomplished through the influence of friends with the present national administration.

Our friend Dr. F. E. Kavanaugh, returned from a visit to the States, with the last mail, looking much improved from a trip across the plains. The Doctor's trip was semi-matrimonial, but he informs us there is no chance for a Santa Fean to win the smiles and confidence of the girls of the States. Indeed, we received a message from a beautiful and accomplished Missouri lady, to the effect, that if the Dr. ever reached Santa Fe, to keep him here, and not let him return. He certainly received a hearty welcome from his numerous friends on his arrival, who doubtless will appreciate his presence among them, as much as our fair friend would seem to enjoy his absence. Our advice to the Dr. is, "to pick his flint and try it again."

The Hon. R. M. T. Hunter has been almost unanimously re-elected U. S. Senator, from the State of Virginia, for six years from the 14th of March 1859. Senator Hunter is one of the profoundest and most conservative statesmen of the day, and his services could be ill spared, in these troublous times, from the councils of the nation. Hence, we are glad he has been re-elected.

We are pleased to notice the election of Hon. W. A. Harris, editor of the Union, Public Printer to the Senate. Our friend, and once contemporary of the quill in Virginia, A. D. Banks, Esq., has, with Mr. Steadman of Ohio, received the House printing.